

PROPOSAL 14

5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Increase Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level to 8% of the acceptable biological catch for Pacific cod in the federal Bering Sea subarea and expand the area eastward, as follows:

(a) This management plan governs the harvest of Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict. For the purposes of this section, the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is comprised of the state waters in the Aleutian Islands District east of 170° W. long. and the state waters of the Bering Sea District that are west of **162° 30' W. long.**[164° W. long.], east of 170° W. long., and south of 55° 30' N. lat., except that the waters of the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict south of 53° 06.11' N. lat. are closed to taking Pacific cod during a state-waters season.

(e) During a state-waters season, (1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is **8 percent** [6.4 percent] of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea Subarea

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Local vessels fishing for Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State-waters fishery are looking to expand the fishery so that is more accessible to the local fishing communities, by expanding the fishing area and GHL. The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod fishery has been successful and the GHL has been fully harvested year after year. This fishery gives the local under 60 foot vessel pot gear fleet a chance to fish locally. Expanding the fishing area further northeast to Moffet Point and raising the GHL by an amount proportionate to the expanded fishing area will create more opportunity for our local vessels, and provide much needed cod for the growing local shore-based processors.

PROPOSED BY: Ernie Weiss

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